

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

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P R 150313Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

UNCLAS STATE 009965

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, AMED, OEXC, NI

SUBJECT: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS

1. SINCE UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICANS ARE NOW
VISITING NIGERIA IN CONNECTION WITH THE SECOND WORLD BLACK
AND AFRICAN FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CULTURE (FESTAC),
M/MED HAS PREPARED FOLLOWING GUIDANCE FOR USE BY EMBASSY

AND CONSULATES IN PREPARING TO MEET REQUESTS FROM VISITING
AMERICANS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

2. EMBASSY AND CONSULATES, INCLUDING REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER
AND FOREIGN SERVICE NURSE IN LAGOS, HAVE NO STATUTORY
OBLIGATION TO NON-OFFICIAL AMERICAN CITIZENS IN NIGERIA.
THE RMO AND/OR FS NURSE MAY, HOWEVER, PROVIDE MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE TO NON-OFFICIAL AMERICAN CITIZENS TO THE EXTENT
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OF THEIR CAPABILITY IN CASE OF GENUINE EMERGENCY RPT
EMERGENCY IF THEY ARE DIRECTED TO DO SO BY THE AMBASSADOR
OR HIS DESIGNEE. THIS IS TO INSURE THAT THEY ARE LEGALLY
PROTECTED UNDER TERMS OF PUBLIC LAW 94-350. DIRECTION
BY THE AMBASSADOR OR HIS DESIGNEE SHOULD BE ON A CASE BY
CASE BASIS AND IN WRITING. THE EMERGENCY STATUS OF
INDIVIDUAL CASES SHOULD BE JUDGED BY COMPETENT MEDICAL

AUTHORITY.

3. M/MED URGES THAT THE HUMANITARIAN INSTINCT TO ASSIST NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS ATTENDING FESTAC DOES NOT OUTWEIGH THE FACT THAT THE EMBASSY AND CONSULATES HAVE NO GREATER RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSIST SUCH AMERICANS THAN THE SEVERAL THOUSAND OTHER NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS IN NIGERIA WHO ARE NORMALLY DENIED ACCESS TO OFFICIAL MEDICAL FACILITIES. THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE MEDICAL STAFF WITH NON-OFFICIAL

VISITORS SHOULD NOT TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER NORMAL DUTIES, INCLUDING REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, EXCEPT IN TRUE EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

4. DEPT ASSUMES THAT ALL VISITORS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH HEALTH CARE FACT SHEETS INCLUDING DIRECTIONS FOR OBTAINING HEALTH CARE FROM HOST COUNTRY SOURCES. THE EMBASSY IS URGED TO MAKE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO FMG, THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, AND THE LEADERS OF THE NORTH AMERICA ZONAL COMMITTEE TO TAKE RESPONSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING MEDICAL CARE FOR FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS.

5. AS MENTIONED IN PREVIOUS CABLE, M/MED IS GIVING BRIEFING ON APPROPRIATE MEDICAL SUBJECTS JANUARY 14 TO NAZ

PHYSICIAN J. FLETCHER ROBINSON. DR. ROBINSON IS DUE TO DEPART FOR LAGOS ON JANUARY 22. HE WILL BE URGED TO CONTACT RMO, DR. WISE, ON ARRIVAL FOR FURTHER LOCAL UNCLASSIFIED

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ORIENTATION.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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